

REMARKS

Claims 10, 13-23 and 25-27 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 16 is amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 20 and 22 contain allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. Because Applicant believes that all claims are allowable, Applicant respectfully declines to rewrite claims 20 and 22 in independent form at the present time.

II. FORMAL MATTERS

The Office Action objects to claim 16 because of an informality appearing in that claim. Claim 16 has been amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26

The Office Action rejects claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-220399 to Asada et al. (hereinafter "Asada"), in view of Great Britain Patent No. 1,491,852 (hereinafter "GB '852"), and further in view of German Patent No. 27 06 595 (hereinafter "DE '595"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Claims 10, 13 and 23

Claim 10 is directed to a dryer which includes a rotary drum that can be fed through a feed opening. Claim 10 recites that drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall of the drum into an end plate having two openings adjacent to

the feed opening. Claim 10 further recites a drying basket with a lattice type basket projecting into the drum, the drying basket including two longitudinal supports in the form of wires. Claim 10 recites that these supports comprise integral connecting devices that each include a bent end section and a bent support section located between the bent end section and the longitudinal support. Claim 10 further recites that the basket is supported demountably on the end plate and that the basket is mounted by inserting the bent end sections into the openings in the end plate and allowing the bent support sections to rest against the end plate.

The Asada reference is directed to a dryer that includes a drying rack which can be mounted inside a drum of the dryer. The Office Action refers to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 16 of the Asada reference. The drying rack illustrated in Figure 16 includes two longitudinal supports 51, with hooked ends 51a. A plurality of cross wires 52 run between the two longitudinal supports 51. The drying rack also includes two triangular-shaped support elements 53 which are attached to the bottom of the longitudinal supports 51.

To mount Asada's drying rack in the drum of a dryer, one would hook the hooked ends 51a of the longitudinal supports 51 around the front of the opening of the dryer, similar to the embodiment illustrated in Figure 3 of Asada. The support elements 53 would then extend downward inside the drum opening.

The Office Action admits that the Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest that an end plate at the front of the dryer would include two openings. The Office Action also admits that the hooked ends 51a of the longitudinal supports 51 of the Asada drying rack are not inserted into any openings located in the end plate of the Asada dryer. The Office Action asserts that these features are illustrated in either GB '852 or DE '595. The Office Action further asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the drying rack disclosed in Asada based on the teachings of GB '852 or DE '595 to result in a dryer as recited in claim 10. Applicant respectfully disagrees on both points.

As noted in the Office Action, it appears that GB '852 and DE '595 are basically directed to the same type of drying rack. As illustrated in both references, the drying rack includes a grid formed of longitudinally extending wires 3 and cross wires 4. Support elements are then connected to the bottom of the support grid. The support elements include projections 8 which are intended to rest on the rim of the opening into the dryer drum, as illustrated in Figure 2 of both of the references. DE '595 also illustrates that there are two holes 15 on the inner wall of the door 13 which closes the opening into the dryer. The holes 15 are designed to receive the ends of the projections 8 which are resting upon the opening into the dryer drum.

As explained above, claim 10 recites that the openings which receive the bent end sections of the longitudinal supports of the drying basket are located in the end plate located at the front of the dryer. The Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest that any portions of a longitudinal support of a drying rack or a drying basket would be inserted into any type of openings. The GB '852 and DE '595 references indicate that ends of a longitudinal support structure may be inserted into openings in the door of a dryer. However, GB '852 and DE '595 fail to indicate that such openings could be located in an end plate of a dryer, or that bent ends of longitudinal supports would be inserted into openings in that end plate. Accordingly, even if the references were combined as suggested in the Office Action, the combination would still fail to disclose or suggest a dryer as recited in claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 13 and 23 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional features which are also not shown or suggested by any of the references of record. For instance, claim 23 recites that the engagement of the bent end sections in the opening and the engagement of the bent support section with the end plate

causes the drying basket to project into the drum in a cantilevered fashion. In the GB '852 and DE '595 references, which are the only references which show an end of the longitudinal support being inserted into an opening, the drying rack is not supported in a cantilevered fashion. Instead, the rack is supported by engagement between the bottom of the projections 8 on the circular opening into the drum, and also by engagement of a support 6 with a hub 11 projecting from a rear wall of the drum. It is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is also allowable for these additional reasons.

B. Claims 16-18 and 26

Claim 16 is directed to a laundry dryer which includes a housing and a rotary drum disposed within the housing. Claim 16 recites that the drum has a rear wall with inlet openings through which an airflow enters the rotary drum. Claim 16 also recites a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum, and an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening. Claim 16 recites that the end plate includes two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate. Claim 16 also recites a drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports in the form of wires, and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports. Claim 16 recites that each longitudinal support includes a connecting device comprising a bent end section that forms a hook and a bent supporting section located between the bent end section and the lattice basket. Claim 16 further recites that the drying basket is removably connected to the end plate and that it projects into the rotary drum toward the rear wall. Each of the basket openings receives one of the bent end sections, and each of the supporting sections engages a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

As explained above, the Asada reference fails to disclose or suggest a drying basket having bent end sections on a longitudinal support, wherein the bent end sections are received in basket openings located on an end plate of the

dryer. The GB '852 and DE '595 references also fail to disclose or suggest that ends of longitudinal supports would be inserted into openings on an end plate of a dryer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable for reasons similar to those explained above in connection with claim 10.

Claims 17, 18 and 26 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite. For instance, claim 26 depends from claim 16 and recites that engagement between the bent end sections and the basket openings and between the bent supporting sections and the end plate cause the drying basket to project into the rotary drum in a cantilevered fashion. As noted above, GB '852 and DE '595 fail to disclose or suggest these features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is also allowable for these additional reasons.

C. Claim 21

Claim 21 is directed to a method for removably connecting a drying basket to a laundry dryer. Claim 21 recites providing a laundry dryer comprising a housing, a rotary drum disposed within the housing, a feed opening in the housing providing access to the rotary drum, and an end plate disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening and including two basket openings. Claim 21 recites providing a drying basket including two elongated longitudinal supports and a lattice type basket supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support including a connecting device having a bent end section in the form of a hook and a bent supporting section located between the lattice type basket and the bent end section. Claim 21 also recites inserting each bent end section into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum, and positioning each bent supporting section on a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

As noted above, Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 all fail to disclose or suggest providing a laundry dryer having an end plate that includes two basket openings. The references also fail to disclose or suggest inserting each bent end section of a longitudinal support of a drying basket into the openings in the end plate. For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is also allowable over the cited references.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 13, 16-18, 21, 23 and 26 is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIMS 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Asada, in view of GB '852, and further in view of DE '595, US Patent No. 4,720,925 to Czech et al. (hereinafter "Czech") and a Maytag Appliance Owner's Manual (hereinafter "Maytag"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Claims 14, 15 and 25

Claims 14, 15 and 25 depend from independent claim 10. As noted above, Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 fail to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that the Czech reference and the Maytag reference fail to cure the deficiencies of Asada, DE '595 and GB '852 discussed above. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 15 and 25 are allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 10, and for the additional features which they recite.

B. Claims 19 and 27

Claims 19 and 27 depend from independent claim 16. It is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 27 are allowable over Asada, GB '852 and DE '595 for all of the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 16.

The Czech and Maytag references fail to cure those deficiencies of the other references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 27 are allowable for all the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 16 and for the additional features which they recite.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 15, 19, 25 and 27 is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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